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Promotion and protection of human rights

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

Letter dated 12 June 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the texts of the joint statement of the Heads of State and Government of the South-East European Cooperation Process and of the Chisinau Declaration of the 12th meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the South-East European Cooperation Process, held in Chisinau from 2 to 5 June 2009 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 64, 79 and 114.

(*Signed*) Alexandru **Cujba**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 12 June 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Chisinau joint statement of the Heads of State and Government of the South-East European Cooperation Process

Forging Partnership for Cooperation and Development

We, the Heads of State and Government of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP),

Having reviewed the current situation in South East Europe and beyond at this decisive point in time and fully aware of the historical opportunities opening up to our countries and peoples;

Determined to exercise reinvigorated leadership and genuine cooperation in order to consolidate the achievements reached so far in our region and continue to move the South East Europe further towards the European mainstream;

Reiterating our full adherence to the completion of integration of South East Europe in the European Union and most of the countries into the Euro-Atlantic structures;

Determined to spare no efforts in forging partnership, solidarity and cooperation in addressing the global economic and financial crisis and its impacts to South East Europe;

Mindful of economic, natural and human potentials of our region and resolute to find the best ways to utilize them in order to accelerate regional development and respond to the current crisis effects;

Aware of the key role of genuine cooperation in facilitating dialogue, strengthening peace and stability, building trust and realisation of joint development projects thus contributing to fulfilment of our common goals;

Partnership for European Integration

We reaffirm that the accession to the European Union (EU) remains our key goal and we are convinced that the European perspective of the region shall be kept high on the agenda of the EU and its institutions. We believe that Euro-Atlantic integration for those opting for it shall also add to the stability, security and cooperation in our region.

We underline the importance of consolidating stability and security as well as strengthening of cooperation in South East Europe for building a free, democratic and united Europe;

We are dedicated to strengthen shared responsibility and mutual understanding in solving outstanding issues in the spirit of dialogue, compromise, mutual respect, equality, good neighbourly relations and in line with the principles of international law and our commitment to the European Union;

We have confidence that the EU will continue to advance the European perspective of the entire South East Europe;

We are determined to continue working together and assisting each other on the implementation of the European agendas. We will speed up the EU accession related reforms. We are committed to strengthening democracy, human rights, fundamental freedoms and good neighbourly relations;

Partnership for Development and Prosperity

We reaffirm our determination to promote concrete joint actions in responding to the effects of the current global economic crisis. Aware of the necessity to add a regional component to our national policies, we support elaboration of measures, initiatives and projects in order to enhance economic activity and strengthen competitiveness at national and regional levels keeping at the same time the pace of economic reforms as well as openness of our markets;

We welcome the comprehensive conclusions of the G 20 Summit of 2 April 2009 in London hopeful they will produce desired effects on the world economy. We strongly support the efforts of the EU and the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) aimed at assisting our region to respond to the crisis. In this respect we invite the EU and IFIs to continue to elaborate strategies and measures which will help strengthening strategic economic sectors in the region;

We recognize that the scope of the crisis calls for innovative, far-reaching and effective response and reaffirm our interest to consult on large-scale regional development projects, especially in the field of energy, infrastructure and transport, jointly and in cooperation with the EU and international institutions, as well as interested partners close to the region;

We call upon the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) to establish a high-level expert panel aimed at stimulating in-depth discussion on economic and financial measures in response to the crisis by acting in a coordinated manner at the regional level and in consultations with the EU institutions and other international partners.

Partnership for Strengthening of Rule of Law

We underline the importance of the rule of law for the overall prosperity and security, strengthening democracy and human rights. In this light, we emphasize the necessity to uphold and ensure full respect of the rule of law throughout South East Europe;

We recognise the rule of law as a paramount factor in the creation of the environment for secure economic and social activities and investment that are so crucial in responding to the current crisis and acceleration of reforms in order to generate development throughout the region;

We confirm our willingness to continue vigorously cooperating with the EU and other international partners in ensuring good governance, transparent legal framework, fight against corruption and organized crime throughout the region;

We are determined to work together to ensure that practices in the field of the rule of law including all its administrative, legislative and judicial aspects, are in compliance with relevant EU standards. We will ensure that the administrative capacities of our institutions, where necessary, will be upgraded and enhanced in order to ensure the unimpeded implementation of the rule of law in all its aspects.

Adopted in Chişinău, on 5 June 2009

Chisinau Declaration of the 12th Meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the South-East European Cooperation Process

We, the Heads of State and Government of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) Participating States, Presidents: Mr. Georgi Pârvanov, Mr. Vladimir Voronin, Mr. Boris Tadić, Prime Minister Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Deputy Prime Ministers: Ms. Jadranka Kosor, Mr. Vujica Lazović, Minister Mr. Antonio Milososki, Deputy Ministers: Mrs. Ana Trišić Babić, Mr. Yannis Valinakis, State Secretary Mr. Bogdan Aurescu, Secretary General Mr. Ferit Hoxha have met in Chisinau on 5 June 2009 at the 12th Meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the SEECP.

In the presence of the Special Invitees of the SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office of the Republic of Moldova: Secretary General of the BSEC PERMIS Mr. Leonidas Chrysanthopoulos, Secretary General of the Central European Initiative Mr. Pietro Ercole Ago, Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council Mr. Hido Biščević, as well as the representatives of the Czech Presidency to the EU, incoming Swedish Presidency to the EU, European Commission, Council of Europe, OSCE, SECI, UN and UNECE.

In the presence of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Mr. Andrei Stratan, Ministers: Mr. Gordan Jandroković, Mr. Vuk Jeremić, Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Mr. Egemen Bağiş, Deputy Ministers: Mr. Lyubomir Kyuchukov, Mr. Valeriu Ostalep, Mr. Milorad Ščepanović.

At this Summit we convened and confirmed the following:

1. We recognized regional cooperation and good neighborly relations in South-East Europe, based on the principles of the SEECP Charter, the UN Charter, Helsinki Final Act, OSCE and Council of Europe relevant documents, as prerequisites for advancement of the countries on the way towards European and Euro-Atlantic integration, and for consolidation and ensuring stability and security in the region;

2. We reconfirmed our firm conviction that European and Euro-Atlantic perspective of South-East Europe remains the main driving force for advancement of the internal reforms and transformation processes and the most important impetus on the way to achieving long-lasting political, social and economic stability in the region;

3. We share the view that the European Union should remain focused on SEE and strengthen the European perspective of SEE countries which are committed to adopt and implement the EU standards, principles and values, and to fulfill the EU requirements and criteria in accordance with the policies applicable to each of them;

4. We underlined the leading role of the SEECP as the main political forum for regional cooperation among the countries in SEE. We reiterated the common will to further develop the SEECP as the "genuine voice" and the key actor in the region;

Development of a Stable and Prosperous South East Europe

5. In the period since the Pomorie Summit on May 21, 2008, important progress has been achieved within the SEECP area in moving closer to the EU and Euro-Atlantic institutions, in further consolidating stability in the region, in strengthening political cooperation and dialogue and in achieving economic prosperity and social development to the benefit of the peoples of the SEECP countries and the region as a whole;

6. We share a common vision for the future of our region, with open and tolerant societies based on the rule of law, functioning democratic institutions, respect for universal human rights and unequivocal adherence to the values of democracy. In that sense, we are pleased to note that most of the SEECP Participating States are members of the Group of Friends of the UN Alliance of Civilizations Initiative;

7. We strongly condemned terrorism and all forms of violence and extremism, whatever their motives. We also reaffirmed the need to vigorously combat all forms of organized crime and corruption thus contributing to security of our countries and the region as a whole;

8. We underlined the importance of continuous enhancement of bilateral relations among our countries in the spirit of good neighborly relations;

9. We expressed the awareness of the global financial and economic crisis and concern of its possible adverse effects on South-East Europe. We agreed that there is an increased need for governments of SEE to join efforts, with the essential role of the EU, in addressing any challenges posed, attaching an additional need for regional solidarity and cooperation;

10. We praised the overall work and results achieved by the Regional Cooperation Council and its Secretariat in Sarajevo in advancing regional cooperation within its priority areas during the first year of operation;

11. We recognized the possibilities of enhancing cooperation and developing of concrete large-scale regional development projects as a stimulus to South-East Europe to counter the impact of the current crisis, in areas such as - transport and energy, inland waterways, civil aviation cooperation, reconstruction and rehabilitation of railways, land transport infrastructure and harbors,' building channels and irrigation facilities;

12. We supported demonstrated commitment of Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU and welcomed plans of the incoming Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union to contribute to strengthening regional cooperation and realization of important regional projects. We welcomed the Conference on the Western Balkans to be organized with the European Commission in Brussels in December. We tasked the RCC to remain actively engaged in this initiative;

Advancement towards European and Euro-Atlantic Integration

13. We share the view that European and Euro-Atlantic integration based on respecting the principles of democracy, human rights, fundamental freedoms, regional cooperation and good neighborly relations among the SEECP Participating States can highly contribute to the lasting peace and stability in our region. We welcomed two SEECP Participating States joining the Alliance at its Sixtieth anniversary Summit. We also acknowledged the NATO's determination to extend an invitation to a third SEECP Participating State, as soon as a mutually acceptable solution on the name issue will be reached within the framework of the UN. We welcomed the application of one Participating State to start the Membership Action Plan with NATO and expressed our hope that the MAP status to this Participating State shall be given as soon as possible. We underlined the interest for further development of cooperation between NATO and the PfP countries from the SEECP area;

14. We are convinced that the policy of enlargement is a powerful instrument, which serves the strategic interests of the European Union and the countries concerned — consolidating stability, security and sustainable development of the region. Believing that the enlargement perspective shall be left open for all concerned SEECP Participating States, we expect that negotiations or processes aiming at full membership will continue unabated;

15. We are looking forward to the entering into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, as soon as it is ratified by all the EU member states. We are confident that the new Treaty will strengthen the EU institutions and policies and will enhance its enlargement policy;

16. We are convinced that SEECP together with RCC should keep and enhance fruitful collaboration with EU Presidencies so as to maintain the South East Europe among their priorities during the terms-in-office;

17. We welcomed the European Council Declaration on the Western Balkans from 20 June 2008, recognizing that considerable efforts have been made to render the European perspective of the Western Balkans more tangible and visible to people across the region;

18. We welcomed the Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges for 2008-2009 which reaffirms the full support of the EU for the European perspective of the Western Balkans and confirms the continuation of the EU enlargement process, in line with the Thessaloniki Agenda. We commended one Participating State for its considerable progress towards the final stage of accession negotiations. We also commended the progress of the accession negotiations with one Participating State. We expressed hope that the conditions set by the EU for one remaining EU candidate will be met for accession negotiations to start. We welcomed the launching of the technical procedure concerning the EU membership application of one Participating State and expressed hope that the process shall be finalized as soon as possible. We welcomed the entry into force of the SAA with one Participating State on April 1, 2009, as well as its application for EU membership. We expect that the ratification of the SAA of two Participating States will advance. We welcomed the signature of the Stabilization and Association Agreement and the Interim

Agreement with one Participating State. We expressed hope that Interim Agreement implemented by one Participating State will enter into force soon and that the process of ratification of the SAA with the same Participating State will start and be finalized hopefully by the end of this year;

19. We welcomed the preparation of the negotiations between the European Commission and one Participating State on a new and ambitious Agreement, which will also include the aim of a deep and comprehensive Free Trade Agreement. We also welcomed progress in the implementation of the ENP Action Plan between the EU and that Participating State. We also underline the importance and the will to further continue the European integration process on the basis of European values and standards, good neighborly relations, common interests and individual performances;

20. We welcomed the implementation of the visa facilitation and readmission Agreements between EU and six Participating States, underlining the need to further facilitate the visa proceedings, observing the spirit of the Agreements in force. Additionally, we welcomed the recent progress in the visa liberalization dialogue with five Participating States and we expressed hope that by the end of 2009 the EU would take decision regarding the establishment of the visa free travel regime with those that will meet the EU requirements. We also welcomed the results of the Meeting of Heads of the Consular Services of the SEECP Participating States held in Chisinau on 24 April 2009, as a part of the process aiming to contribute to a more simplified visa regime within the region;

21. We expressed hope that soon EU and one Participating State will start the dialogue on visa liberalization in order to identify and implement the EU requirements to fulfill the necessary criteria;

22. We underlined the importance of the Instrument for the Pre-Accession assistance in order to ensure support for candidate and potential candidate countries in their efforts to meet the necessary accession criteria and prepare for assuming obligations for the EU membership. We welcome the EU assistance through IPA for the Western Balkans, in addressing the consequences of the financial and economic crisis. We appreciate the active participation of the Regional Cooperation Council in the process of developing regional projects under IPA Program in line with the priority areas;

23. We called upon the European Commission and RCC to continue to work on the modalities of cooperation with all SEECP Participating States in the priority areas of development in the region;

Enhancement of Regional Cooperation within the SEECP and RCC framework

24. We reaffirmed the regional ownership principle and the leading role of the SEECP;

25. We welcomed the successful launching of the Regional Cooperation Council and beginning of operations of the RCC Secretariat in Sarajevo and its Liaison Office in Brussels;

26. We stressed that further development of regional cooperation is of common interest and recognized the importance of the enhanced role of the region on that path. We expressed our conviction that regional cooperation and ownership, strongly supported by the European Union, other RCC Board members and international partners, remains of paramount importance for the development of the SEECP countries and the region as a whole;

27. We reconfirmed the inclusive character of regional cooperation processes in South East Europe and stressed the importance of active participation and contribution of all RCC members from the region;

28. We praised the continuous strong support of the EU and its institutions to the RCC as its key interlocutor in promoting regional cooperation;

29. We expressed our full support for the launching and results of the networking mechanism between the RCC members from South East Europe, the RCC Secretariat, with the involvement of European Commission and relevant International Financial Institutions, establishing a viable framework for the coordination and follow-up of the most important projects in the priority domains of activity. We recognized the importance of the Multi-beneficiary Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance Programme in developing regional projects and encourage all stakeholders to continue utilizing the RCC networking mechanism in this context;

30. We assessed the development of the energy and transport sectors as the basic pillars of the infrastructure of the region. The implementation of the Energy Community Treaty and the negotiation of a Multilateral Agreement between the EU and Western Balkans on the establishment of the Transport Community in Western Balkans are important elements for regional sustainable economic growth, and for encouraging foreign investments. In this regard, we welcomed positive achievements in the implementation of the Energy Community Treaty in South-East Europe, as well as the progress in the accession negotiations with Participating States;

31. We support the RCC in facilitating the establishment of the Southeastern and Central Europe Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (SECE-CRIF), aimed to counter the effects of floods, earthquakes and droughts in the region by developing a catastrophe insurance market, thus providing a budgetary relief;

32. We support the RCC in facilitating the establishment of the South East Europe Firefighting Regional Centre (SEEFREC) aiming at coordinating firefighting related activities of the RCC members from South East Europe and setting up a joint operational structure and common efforts addressing forest fire disasters in the region;

33. We welcomed the establishment of the fully operational CEFTA Secretariat in Brussels, which should contribute to the fostering trade and implementation of relevant economic policies, for reducing obstacles to trade and investments and opening up markets, as appropriate;

34. We fully support the pivotal role of the RCC in streamlining and coordination process of the regional task forces and initiatives in SEE and offer full support of the SEECP on that path;

35. We praised the successful implementation of the Strategic Work Program of the Regional Cooperation Council 2008-2009, in line with its basic documents, as well as the implementation of the objectives of the SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office;

36. We declared our firm and unequivocal support for the work of the RCC Secretariat and Secretary General Mr. Hido Biščević and we call upon him to continue the work in achieving the defined regional priorities and objectives;

37. We endorsed the Strategic Work Program of the Regional Cooperation Council for 2009-2010 and the Annual Report of the RCC Secretary General;

SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office of the Republic of Moldova

38. We appreciated the dynamic efforts of the Chairmanship-in-Office of the Republic of Moldova in contributing to the strengthening of the dialogue in the SEECP framework and promoting the regional cooperation in South East Europe;

39. We praised the Chairmanship-in-Office of the Republic of Moldova in contributing to the promotion and strengthening of regional cooperation process in the SEECP framework and in SEE region as a whole, by successfully implementing the Program and Priorities of the Chairmanship mandate. We highly evaluated the wide range of meetings and events organized in line with regional priorities within the Chairmanship-in-Office mandate;

40. We put a particular emphasis on the conclusions and recommendations of the International Conference "Regional Cooperation — Opportunities, Challenges and Synergy", which provided a significant value to the processes of better coordination of the goals, priorities and activities of the regional organizations, arrangements and initiatives;

41. We welcomed the results of the Meeting of the Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs, by signing the Memorandum on legal and judicial guarantees against unlawful processing of personal data and adopting the Common Declaration regarding the strengthening of cooperation in combating cybercrime. We urge on the relevant national authorities and RCC Secretariat to work together on the implementation of those documents;

42. We highly appreciated the achieved results of the Meeting of the Heads of the SEECP Supreme Audit Institutions "South East Europe SAIs: Developments and Prospects" and the International Conference "Ways to Improve SAIs Activity within the European Vector Framework: Experience and Practices of the South-East European SAIs"; International Conference for the Central and Eastern Europe, Balkans, Caucasus and Baltic States "Science and Education Policies"; Joint Meeting of the SEECP Political Directors and Directors responsible for EU Affairs from the

SEECP Participating States; Meeting of the SEECP Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs; Meeting of the SEECP Ministers of Health; Informal Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs; Meeting of the Heads of Consular Services of the SEECP Participating States; 2nd Meeting of the SEECP Competition Authorities; Meeting of the SEECP Ministers of Foreign Affairs; as well as the Meetings of the Committee of Political Directors of the SEECP Participating States;

43. We took note of the Final Report on the activities of the Chairmanship-in-Office of the Republic of Moldova and called upon the next Chairmanship-in-Office to continue the launched activities and processes;

Incoming Chairmanship-in-Office

44. We expressed our highest appreciation for the effectiveness of the present Chairmanship-in-Office and the utmost gratitude for excellent organization of this 12th Meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the SEECP in Chişinau;

45. We welcomed the incoming Chairmanship-in-Office of Turkey and its Priorities and Program, and decided that the next SEECP Summit will be held in Istanbul, in 2010. At the same time, we gladly accepted the proposal of Montenegro to take over the SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office in 2010-2011.

Adopted in Chisinau on 5 June 2009